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PP RUEHWEB

DE RUEHJMA #0639 0961246
ZNY CCCCC ZZH ZUI RUEWMCE3841 0961239
P 061246Z APR 07
FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC0000
INFO ARAB ISRAELI COLLECTIVE
RHEHNSC/WHITE HOUSE NSC

C O N F I D E N T I A L JERUSALEM 000639

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

NEA FOR FRONT OFFICE; NEA/IPA FOR
WILLIAMS/SHAMPAINE/BELGRADE; NSC FOR ABRAMS/DORAN/WATERS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/06/2017

TAGS: PREL KWBG PBTS KHUM KPAL IS

SUBJECT: ISRAELI ACTIVISTS ENTER TEMPLE MOUNT/HARAM
A-SHARIF APRIL 4-5

CLASSIFIED BY: CONSUL GENERAL JAKE WALLES, PER REASONS 1.4 (B) AND (D)

¶1. (C) WAQF DIRECTOR AZZAM AL-KHATIB TOLD POLOFF ON APRIL 6 THAT RIGHT-WING ISRAELI ACTIVISTS ENTERED THE TEMPLE MOUNT/HARAM A-SHARIF COMPOUND ON APRIL 4 AND 5. AL-KHATIB SAID ON APRIL 4 SIXTY ACTIVISTS ENTERED THROUGH THE MUGHABI GATE AND TOURED THE COMPOUND FOR ABOUT AN HOUR, ESCORTED BY ISRAELI POLICE. HE NOTED THAT WAQF GUARDS WERE PROHIBITED FROM APPROACHING THE GROUP. ACCORDING TO AL-KHATIB, SOME FORTY-TWO ACTIVISTS WERE ESCORTED ONTO THE TEMPLE MOUNT/HARAM A-SHARIF ON APRIL 5, AND ON THIS OCCASION, THEY CARRIED A MODEL OF THE SECOND TEMPLE. PRESS ACCOUNTS INDICATE THAT THE ACTIVISTS ARE AFFILIATED WITH THE TEMPLE MOUNT FAITHFUL.

¶2. (C) AL-KHATIB TOLD POLOFF THAT THE WAQF GUARDS HAD CONTACTED ISRAELI COUNTERPARTS TO PROTEST THE SITUATION, AND HE WARNED THAT SUCH ACTIVITIES COULD FUEL ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN TENSIONS. AL-KHATIB SAID THAT IF THE ACTIVISTS ATTEMPT TO CONDUCT RELIGIOUS SERVICES ON THE COMPOUND, WAQF OFFICIALS WILL BE UNABLE TO CONTROL THE REACTIONS, NOTING THE VIOLENT CLASHES IN 1991 AFTER GERSHON SOLOMON APPROACHED THE COMPOUND WITH THE INTENT OF LAYING THE FOUNDATION FOR A NEW TEMPLE.

WALLES